

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A floor covering having improved wear and/or stain resistance comprising a wear layer, said wear layer comprising ~~urethane-based~~ radiation curable acrylates and aluminum oxide, wherein said aluminum oxide has an average particle size of about 10 to about 70 microns and is present in an amount up to and including about ~~[[29%]]~~ 40% by weight of said wear layer.

38. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 37, wherein said aluminum oxide is present in an amount of about 1% by weight to about 15% by weight of said wear layer.

39. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 37, wherein said aluminum oxide has an average particle size of about 25 to about 35 microns.

40. (Currently Amended) The floor covering according to claim 37, wherein said wear layer further contains carborundum, quartz, silica, glass, a plastic, a polymeric or an organic material.

41. (Currently Amended) The floor covering according to claim 37, wherein said ~~urethane-based acrylate is radiation or electron beam curable~~ radiation is ultraviolet light or an electron beam.

42. (Currently Amended) The floor covering of claim 37, wherein said wear layer includes a bottom coat layer and a top coat layer or an outermost layer and

wherein said top coat layer or outermost layer contains said ~~urethane-based~~ radiation curable acrylates containing said aluminum oxide.

43. (Currently Amended) The floor covering of claim 42, wherein said bottom coat layer comprises polyvinylchloride, urethane, acrylic, melamine, polyvinylchloride, polyolefins, and wood.

44. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 37, wherein said aluminum oxide is calcined or fused aluminum oxide.

45. (Currently Amended) A floor covering comprising a wear layer, said wear layer comprising ~~a radiation or electron beam curable urethane-based~~ radiation curable acrylates and aluminum oxide, wherein said aluminum oxide has an average particle size of about 10 to about 70 microns, and is present in an amount sufficient to improve wear and/or stain resistance.

46. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 45, wherein said aluminum oxide is present in of about 1% by weight to about 40% by weight of said wear layer.

47. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 46, wherein said aluminum oxide is present in of about 1% by weight to about 29% by weight of said wear layer.

48. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 45, wherein said aluminum oxide has an average particle size of about 25 to about 35 microns.

49. (Currently Amended) The floor covering according to claim 45, wherein said wear layer further contains carborundum, quartz, silica, glass, a plastic, a polymeric or an organic material.

50. (Currently Amended) The floor covering of claim 45, wherein said wear layer includes a bottom coat layer and a top coat layer or an outermost layer and wherein said top coat layer or said outermost layer contains said ~~urethane-based~~ radiation curable acrylates containing said aluminum oxide.

51. (Currently Amended) The floor covering of claim 50, wherein said bottom coat layer comprises polyvinylchloride, urethane, acrylic, melamine, polyolefins, and wood.

52. (Previously Presented) The floor covering of claim 45, wherein said aluminum oxide is calcined or fused aluminum oxide.

53. (Currently Amended) A floor covering ~~having improved wear and/or stain-resistance~~ comprising a wear layer that includes a bottom coat layer comprising at least one material chosen from polyvinylchloride, urethane, acrylic, melamine, and polyolefin, and a top coat layer or an outermost layer comprising ~~a radiation or electron beam-curable urethane-based acrylate~~ acrylates and calcined or fused aluminum oxide,

wherein said aluminum oxide has an average particle size of about 10 microns to about 70 microns and is present in an amount up to and including about 40% by weight of said wear layer.

54-59. (Canceled)